

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CPR-02 L-03 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02
HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:JCMONJO:PAW
APPROVED BY P:DDNEWSOM
EA:RBOAKLEY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA FLASH
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159863

FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP

SUBJECT: NEW YORK INCIDENT

REF: MANILA 10523

1. AGREE ENTIRELY THAT WE MUST TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS
TO CONTROL DAMAGE CAUSED BY INCIDENT -- AND BY GOP'S
DELIBERATE ESCALATION OF IT. GIVEN ROMULO'S PAST TRACK
RECORD AND HIS LEADING ROLE IN FEEDING FLAMES AT THIS
TIME, WE CAN LOOK ONLY TO MARCOS TO ISSUE NECESSARY
INSTRUCTIONS TO CALM DOWN SITUATION. SUGGEST YOU PRESS
FOR REQUESTED MEETING AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME (REFTEL).

2. IN MEETING WITH MARCOS SUGGEST YOU STATE:
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A. IN ADDITION TO EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET MADE BY OAKLEY
AND YOU THERE, WE ACTED EXPEDITIOUSLY ON PHILIPPINE NOTE
OF JUNE 13 CONCERNING INCIDENT WHICH ASKED "FORMAL WRITTEN
SATISFACTION." FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A PRELIMINARY ORAL
POLICE REPORT WE REPLIED IN NOTE DATED JUNE 16, EXPRESS-
ING "DEEP REGRET" FOR THE INCIDENT WHICH WAS AS FAR AS IT

WAS POSSIBLE TO GO PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF A DEFINITIVE REPORT. OUR NOTE STATED THAT WE HAD REQUESTED "A COMPLETE AND FINAL REPORT ON THE INCIDENT" AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO INDICATE ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRELIMINARY ORAL REPORT. OUR NOTE CLOSED WITH AN ASSURANCE OF THE CONTINUING DESIRE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO BE OF ASSISTANCE AND WE EXPLAINED ORALLY IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND MANILA THAT WE ARE WORKING ACTIVELY TOWARDS A RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER, AS WELL AS REINFORCING OUR EXPRESSION OF REGRET.

B. OUR MISSION IN NEW YORK HAS STRESSED TO THE PHILIPPINE MISSION THAT IT WISHES TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO FRIENDLY MISSIONS WORK TOGETHER ON THIS. (FYI ALTHOUGH PHILIPPINE MISSION HAS REQUESTED A MEETING OF UN HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WE HAVE URGED THEM TO RECONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF GOING AHEAD WITH SUCH A PUBLIC MEETING AS NOT BEING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF EITHER COUNTRY. MEETING IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28.)

C. WE EXPECT THE NEW YORK POLICE WRITTEN REPORT ON INCIDENT TO BE AVAILABLE FRIDAY, JUNE 23. (FYI NYC DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS HAS BEEN ADVISED BY USUN OF PHILIPPINE ALLEGATIONS AND HAS AGREED THAT REPORT SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THESE CHARGES.)
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D. WE UNDERSTAND STRONG FEELINGS OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OVER THE INCIDENT AND ARE TAKING THEM INTO ACCOUNT. WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE NEW YORK CITY POLICY VERY HARD TO COMPLETE THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT AND THE BEHAVIOR OF THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED.

E. ADDITIONAL ACTION BY THE USG MUST AWAIT THE POLICE REPORT. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL BE GLAD TO REVIEW WITH THE GOP BOTH THE FINAL REPORT OF THE POLICE AND THE GOP REPORT OF THE INCIDENT.

3. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM CALLED IN AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ LATE JUNE 22 TO MAKE THESE POINTS, STRESSING DETERMINATION OF STATE DEPARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN FULL FACTS, OUR DEEP REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT, AND OUR DESIRE NOT TO SEE EXCELLENT USG-GOP RELATIONS SINCE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT UPSET BY A LOCAL INCIDENT WHICH WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES. HE ASKED ROMUALDEZ PLEASE TO REASSURE BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, FROM A FRIEND, THAT WE WANT TO GET THE FACTS AND DISCUSS

WITH THE GOP WHAT THE FACTS MAY PORTEND. THIS MATTER

HAS BEEN RECEIVING VERY HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION BUT UNTIL THE POLICE REPORT HAS BEEN COMPLETED WE ARE NOT ABLE TO TAKE ACTION FURTHER THAN THE DEEP REGRETS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED. AS SOON AS THE REPORT IS RECEIVED, IT IS OUR HOPE TO PROCEED BY COMMON INQUIRY TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS.

4. ROMUALDEZ TOLD NEWSOM THAT GOP HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOTE CONSTITUTED A FINAL REPLY AND AN EFFORT TO PUT AN END TO THE INCIDENT. MOREOVER, THE REPORT OF THE FACTS WAS SERIOUSLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE GOP REPORT, OBTAINED FROM THE SECURITY GUARDS. IN A CONFIDENTIAL

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LATER CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY, ROMUALDEZ SAID THAT NOTE "AS WORDED" WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND SUGGESTED THAT IF REPORT BY POLICE MADE IT POSSIBLE, USG SHOULD CONSIDER CONVEYING FORMAL APOLOGY TO GOP. HE ADDED THAT "IN THE PAST, THE GOP HAS APOLOGIZED TO THE UNITED STATES." OAKLEY REPLIED THAT IF POLICE REPORT WARRANTED, USG WOULD CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO APOLOGIZE.

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